

## What is an Antigen?

An antigen is a foreign particle that enters the body. This could be a disease causing agent such as part of a bacterium or virus or could be a particle such as pollen or dust.

When an antigen enters the body, the immune system produces ANTIBODIES against that antigen.

Antigen



## What is an Antibody?

An antibody is a protein made by the body's immune system.

Antibodies react with **specific** antigens to enable the antigens to be removed from the body.

Antibody



Antibody bound to specific antigen.  
(Antigen-Antibody Complex)



## What is a Vaccine?

A vaccine is created to stimulate the body to produce antibodies against a specific disease. The vaccine is designed to be a similar shape to the disease antigen. The antibodies produced against the vaccine will be the same as those produced if the person was exposed to the disease.

If a person who has been vaccinated is exposed to the disease the immune system remembers the antibodies it made to the vaccine and can produce them faster.

Vaccine



Antibodies produced  
to the vaccine are the  
same as those produced  
to the disease

